

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1928

This is supposed to be the last of the series under the title of the Huntersville road. It has been said that I got stalled on that road and have not been able to get off of it since. There are at least two reasons for hash. The first is that it is a popular dish especially with the aged and the other is that there is nothing else in the house to set before the family. A large turkey in a small family finally appears in hash, and if I have to eat turkey I prefer it in hash, for many cookings disguise the reptilian nature of the dish. And if it should hereafter appear that something else is offered on this subject it will be because the goods expected did not come.

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I have a little book that I hope to publish sometime about birds. In it I have devoted the space to evidences of intelligence in birds, a phase of the subject which has been wonderfully neglected. I have an indefinite feeling that birds are the wisest of all animals and the most accomplished. They have even learned to speak human language and that is something that no other animal has ever done with the single exception of the donkey that Balaam heard. The bird is the oldest land animal. At first four footed like the most of the reptiles they developed their front feet into wings and were soon able to escape their enemies in the air. Nothing else in the way of land animals has been able to do this. They have many fine traits and they are much loved and cherished by men. I sometimes wonder if they are not too near humans to be eaten as food.

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One of the most remarkable incidents of intelligence and devotion to their human cousins is the tradition about the Cackley pigeons. Some thing over a hundred years ago a citizen named William Cackley, a son of the pioneer Valentine Cackley, lived on the farm now owned and operated by Frel W. Ruckman, at Marvin Chapel, on the Seneca Trail eight miles below Marlinton at the Stephen Sewell run. His wife was Jennie Gay, a daughter of Robert Gay, who lived just above Marlinton on the river. William Cackley kept a store at that place. He decided to move to Huntersville. This must have been just about the time that Huntersville had begun to boom by reason of being the county seat of the new county of Pocahontas. He did not go into the town but settled on Cummings Creek in sight of the court house. At Marvin Mrs. Cackley had a flock of pigeons. When they came to move she decided that it was not worth while to move the pigeons. They were hard to catch and of no intrinsic value. And they

thinking on their part.

The distance from Marvin to Huntersville by way of Marlins Bottom is fourteen miles. The family moved one day and the next morning at daybreak when the family woke and looked out, every pigeon was seen on an oak tree near the house. They had followed the family.

This William Cackley was a very prominent man in the history of the county. He was a captain in the war of 1812. Served several terms in the legislature. He was sheriff of the county. But he later moved to Illinois and while he had a large number of children not many of his descendants live in this county. His daughter Leah married John Hogsett and lived on Elk.

I got a letter the other day from my friend, Charles B. Johnson, the distinguished lawyer of Harrison county. He had caught the name Cackley in some of these romances, and he identifies himself with them having been descended from a brother of Valentine Cackley. He has accumulated a great many details of the family. He writes me that the Cackleys of a hundred and fifty to two hundred years ago were much to milling and that fits in

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with the one that came to Winchester, Virginia, there married Mary Frye and branched off from the rest of the family and settled at Mill Point during the Revolution. This was Valentine Cackley. He built the first mill at Mill Point. The place was first called Cackleytown but gradually took on the name of Mill Point. It was at a place where the swift flowing waters of Stamping Creek could be used for power. Valentine Cackley was the rich man of the community. He had a flour mill, a tilt hammer, a saw mill, a tannery, a store, and great farms. His house was where Lanty McNeel lives and where the fort was. It was to this fort that the Bridger boys were brought when they had been shot to death by the Indians in Bridgers Gap three miles north of this place.

I have been trying to get a line on Sir Eric Geddes and the Huntersville road as so many insist that he was about here in the eighties or nineties. I cannot be absolutely sure, but I think I remember him being at my
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road as so many insist that he was about here in the eighties or nineties. I cannot be absolutely sure, but I think I remember him being at my Uncle Andy McLaughlin's on the Huntersville road somewhere about 1890. I base this on the numerous reports that he showed up in this part of West Virginia, and on the strength of my identification of a photograph of the days of his prime. If I recollect aright he was a huge young fellow lumbering along with a still hugher Englishman.

Here are some of the details of his American experience printed after he became England's right hand man in the great war. Geddes is Scotch and was born in India in 1872. In 1889 he came to America and landed in New York. He traveled in the steerage. He left home against his father's wishes and when he left his father gave him a check for fifteen pounds to be used when he got home sick for a passage home from New York. His first job was in New

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York City trying to make a living as a salesman. His nex job was in the iron works at Homestead, at a dollar and a half a day.

From there he came to West Virginia and got a job as a section hand on the Baltimore and Ohio railway, and the engineer in charge of his part of the railroad was L. F. Loree, the the great railway magnate of the present time.

From there Geddes seems to have landed somewhere over in the central part of the State, possibly on the West Virginia Pittsburgh which was being built into the Gauley country in 1890. The account says the station was called Nicolette but I can not figure out whether this was the place that he worked first in West Virginia or where he got in charge of the station. And I cannot locate Nicolette in West Virginia. At the last station he worked on he had a chance to study train dispatching and telegraphy under a young woman operator and when she married and resigned her job Geddes was put in charge of the station. This is where he lived in an abandoned freight car. Later he left the railroad and worked in the woods. Probably on the waters of Gauley River. Later still he

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He stopped there riding sheep range for a year, and then went to India.

It was in India that he got his chance. He found that some lightly constructed railway was to be built in the woods. You know about how

range for a year, and then went to India.

It was in India that he got his chance. He found that some lightly constructed railway was to be built in the woods. You know about how it would appeal to the trained engineers of England. They would build for all time with rod and rule and blue print. Geddes in America had learned to build woods road without the aid of expert engineers and he laid it down in a hurry and from the beginning he rose rapidly, and at the outbreak of the war he was general manager of the North Eastern, one of the richest roads in England.

The lumber road in these mountains is still fearfully and wonderfully made. The boss will walk ahead with a staff in his hand and indicate as he goes along without an instrument where the road is to be and where the bridges are to be made, and the construction gang follows and evens up and builds long cribs for the bridges and the railroad follows. On this heavy engines and trains are used for years.

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When the necessity arose for quick transportation of men and munitions on the continent of Europe, the department got tangled up. Kitchener remembered Geddes and the woods road of India. He sent for him to get some lines built to relieve the congestion. Red Tape was offended and Geddes was not allowed to build his emergency lines.

But when Lloyd George came in they put Geddes in full charge and he built hundreds of miles of light railways and imported railroad builders from North America for the purpose. In a short time he became one of the great men of the world. When he could not get rails and rolling stock fast enough he would tear it up in England and lay it down in France. West Virginia people often discussed Geddes but they were somewhat puzzled just were to place him in their recollection.

A few words about the expedition

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A few words about the expedition
of Col. Wesley Owens of Eighth Ohio
Cavalry, to Huntersville, in June
1865. This is positively the last
army of the Civil War that marched
through this county on either side.
I have given the last appearance to
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last year of the war, and then dug up
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May 28th, 1865, the war well over,
the Ohio regiment was at Clarksburg.
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Owens left Clarksburg, June 1, 1865, with a column of 400 men on horseback. They rode through Philippi, Beverly, and Huntersville. At Beverly the search for government property began. Especially for concealed arms for they did not want the mountains to break out again.

At that time there were a lot of horses belonging to the United States on the farms. These were mostly horses that had been traded by the troopers for better ones. A horse

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At that time there were a lot of horses belonging to the United States on the farms. These were mostly horses that had been traded by the troopers for better ones. A horse soldier was apt to do that for if his horse began to weaken and he found a fine strong horse in the country it was very natural for him to make a unilateral trade and ride off on the good horse and leave the other in its place. And there had been a lot of good rifles taken. It seems sometimes that the confederates fought with federal arms. Owens came on over Elk Mountain by way of Mingo Flats and when he got to Marlins Bottom, he made inquiries and found that William Smith was not there. That is correct. He was not in this neighborhood at anytime so far as I

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So Owens decided to give up the pursuit of Smith. He reported that affairs in Pocahontas county were in good shape. There was no horse stealing going on. The citizens were well disposed and quiet. Returning rebels immediately went to work and conducted themselves with propriety.

He was eminently right in that statement. In my grandfather's family there were five surviving sons who had been involved in the War of the Rebellion and they had more than enough and were apprehensive of imprisonment and prosecution. They were peaceful and not attracting any more attention than they could.

Owens found and took the following government property: Thirteen horses, one mule, seven saddles and bridles, and eleven rifles.

He was very bitter about one thing however. A day ahead of him rode a company of West Virginia State troops under a Captain Allen, who

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So much of his report as related to Captain Allen was submitted to the Governor of West Virginia.

The Captain Allen referred to was Captain I. W. Allen, of Clover Lick. He was the commanding officer of the Pocahontas company of West Virginia state guards, a hard fighting and efficient company of soldiers who ren-

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The Captain Allen referred to was Captain I. W. Allen, of Clover Lick. He was the commanding officer of the Pocahontas company of West Virginia state guards, a hard fighting and efficient company of soldiers who rendered fully as much service to the Union as any body of regular troops. It has always seemed a pity to me that the federal government did not recognize them as fighters, after the war. They were not like the home guards of distant states. They were on the firing lines. At that time, it was a toss up with young men whether they would join the regulars or

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Captain I. W. Allen was a tall, broad shouldered man with an eagle eye and hooked nose, and he had the respect of the soldiers who served under him because he was cool and courageous. After the war he retired to a small farm on Clover Creek mountain which he worked himself with no more help than his sons gave him as they grew old enough to farm. It was the kind of farm where most of the corn was raised with a hoe and husked and carried into the crib. I taught my first school in his sub-district. It seems to me that he was one of the trustees.

I would go over to his house to spend the the night. I slept on one feather bed and under another. We had bear meat for supper. He was like a good many other soldiers, very

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I would go over to his house to spend the the night. I slept on one feather bed and under another. We had bear meat for supper. He was like a good many other soldiers, very stern and solemn. He would talk a good deal about the war.

I remember one time I was in Charleston in a room in the hotel all cluttered up with statesmen and other prominent West Virginians who were engaged in the national game of holding hands. The old Captian was down there at the same time looking after some legislation. He was a very striking example of the mountaineer with his bold and interrified look his eagle beak his

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In the above paragraph I do not use the word unbeliever in a bad sense. I mean those who pay to see what his opponent holds in the way

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This edges me off of the Huntersville road. It has been my stamping ground for more than four months. I have seen Knapps Creek come tumbling down between the winter

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killed hills in all its moods. I have found many wonderful and beautiful fossils of prehistoric life engraved in the solid rock. And I have enjoyed the driving storms that sweep that narrow valley and caused the car to howl and falter from their force.

That country is full of relics of the sea that has been pushed back so far that few mountain people ever have seen it. To be able to gather sea shells within a few minutes of my home has proved a never fading source of interest to me. If we cannot go down and hear the greybeard sea talking to the shore, we can visit the place that it was the other day, even if we cannot hear its surfy, slow, deep, mellow voice.

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The Word of God

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.—Psalm 119: 105

BIBLE THOUGHT AND PRAYER

*If parents will have their children memo-
rize a Bible selection each week, it will prove
a priceless heritage to them in after years*

THE ONLY GOD:—Hear, O Is-
rael: the Lord our God is one Lord.—
Deuteronomy 6:4

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